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11 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
12 United States of America

13  
14 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
15  
16 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

18 Plaintiff,

19 v.

20 WILLIAM ROBINSON,

21 Defendant.

22 CASE NO. 1:21-CR-00207-JLT-SKO

23 AMENDED STIPULATION REGARDING  
24 EXCLUDABLE TIME PERIODS UNDER  
25 SPEEDY TRIAL ACT; ORDER

26 DATE: January 18, 2023

27 TIME: 1:00 p.m.

28 COURT: Hon. Sheila K. Oberto

17 This case is scheduled for a status conference on November 2, 2022, but the parties have agreed  
18 to move this hearing to January 18, 2023. On May 13, 2020, this Court issued General Order 618,  
19 which suspended all jury trials in the Eastern District of California “until further notice.” Under  
20 General Order 618, a judge “may exercise his or her authority to continue matters, excluding time under  
21 the Speedy Trial Act with reference to the court’s prior General Order 611 issued on March 17,  
22 2020, . . . with additional findings to support the exclusion in the Judge’s discretion.” General Order  
23 618, ¶ 6 (E.D. Cal. May 13, 2020). In addition, any judge “may order case-by-case exceptions” to  
24 General Order 618’s provisions “at the discretion of that Judge or upon the request of counsel, after  
25 consultation with counsel and the Clerk of the Court to the extent such an order will impact court staff  
26 and operations.” General Order 618, ¶ 7 (E.D. Cal. May 13, 2020). The court issued General Order 655  
27 on September 20, 2022, which found that public health conditions had not improved significantly and  
28 justified an additional ninety-day extension of previous orders related to court proceedings.

1 These orders were entered to address public health concerns related to COVID-19. Although the  
 2 general orders address district-wide health concerns, the Supreme Court has emphasized that the Speedy  
 3 Trial Act's end-of-justice provision "counteract[s] substantive open-endedness with procedural  
 4 strictness," "demand[ing] on-the-record findings" in a particular case. *Zedner v. United States*, 547 U.S.  
 5 489, 509 (2006). "[W]ithout on-the-record findings, there can be no exclusion under" § 3161(h)(7)(A).  
 6 *Id.* at 507. Moreover, any such failure cannot be harmless. *Id.* at 509; *see also United States v.*  
 7 *Ramirez-Cortez*, 213 F.3d 1149, 1153 (9th Cir. 2000) (explaining that a judge ordering an ends-of-  
 8 justice continuance must set forth explicit findings on the record "either orally or in writing").

9 Based on the plain text of the Speedy Trial Act—which *Zedner* emphasizes as both mandatory  
 10 and inexcusable—the general orders require specific supplementation. Ends-of-justice continuances are  
 11 excludable only if "the judge granted such continuance on the basis of his findings that the ends of  
 12 justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a  
 13 speedy trial." 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). Moreover, no such period is excludable unless "the court sets  
 14 forth, in the record of the case, either orally or in writing, its reason or finding that the ends of justice  
 15 served by the granting of such continuance outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendant in  
 16 a speedy trial." *Id.*

17 The general orders exclude delay in the "ends of justice." 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7). Although the  
 18 Speedy Trial Act does not directly address continuances stemming from pandemics, natural disasters, or  
 19 other emergencies, this court has discretion to order a continuance in such circumstances. For example,  
 20 the Ninth Circuit affirmed a two-week ends-of-justice continuance following Mt. St. Helens' eruption.  
 21 *Furlow v. United States*, 644 F.2d 764 (9th Cir. 1981). The court recognized that the eruption made it  
 22 impossible for the trial to proceed. *Id.* at 767-68; *see also United States v. Correa*, 182 F. Supp. 326,  
 23 329 (S.D.N.Y. 2001) (citing *Furlow* to exclude time following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks  
 24 and the resultant public emergency).

25 The coronavirus pandemic poses a similar, albeit more enduring, "appreciable difficulty" to the  
 26 prompt proceedings mandated by the statutory rules. Recently, the Ninth Circuit enumerated a "non-  
 27 exhaustive" list of seven factors it found to be "relevant" in considering ends-of-justice Speedy Trial Act  
 28 continuances "in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic." *United States v. Olsen*, 21 F.4th 1036, 1047

1 (9th Cir. 2022). That non-exhaustive list includes: (1) whether a defendant is detained pending trial; (2)  
2 how long a defendant has been detained; (3) whether a defendant has invoked speedy trial rights since  
3 the case's inception; (4) whether a defendant, if detained, belongs to a population that is particularly  
4 susceptible to complications if infected with the virus; (5) the seriousness of the charges a defendant  
5 faces, and in particular whether the defendant is accused of violent crimes; (6) whether there is a reason  
6 to suspect recidivism if the charges against the defendant are dismissed; and (7) whether the district  
7 court has the ability to safely conduct a trial. *Id.*

8 In light of the societal context created by the foregoing, this court should consider the following  
9 case-specific facts in finding excludable delay appropriate in this particular case under the ends-of-  
10 justice exception, § 3161(h)(7). When continued, this court should designate a new date for the hearing.  
11 *United States v. Lewis*, 611 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2010) (noting any pretrial continuance must be  
12 "specifically limited in time").

13 Plaintiff United States of America, by and through its counsel of record, and defendant, by and  
14 through defendant's counsel of record, accordingly stipulate as follows:

15 1. By previous order this matter was set for a status conference hearing on November 2,  
16 2022. The Court more recently has invited a continuance of this hearing if counsel do not believe that  
17 anything substantial can be accomplished at the currently scheduled hearing.

18 2. By this stipulation, the parties agree that the next status conference be scheduled for  
19 January 18, 2023, and to exclude time between November 2, 2022, and January 18, 2023, under 18  
20 U.S.C. §§ 3161(h)(7)(A) and 3161(h)(7)(B)(i), (ii) and (iv).

21 3. The parties agree, and request that the Court find the following:

22 a) A continuance is required to allow the defense reasonable time for preparation  
23 and review of discovery. The discovery in this case is voluminous and encompasses several  
24 terabytes of data. A continuance is necessary to afford the defense a reasonable opportunity to  
25 review the discovery and conduct necessary investigation. Defense counsel is making  
26 arrangement to review items at the Fresno FBI office, particularly contraband that the  
27 government recently has copied and made available to the defense for review.

28 b) Counsel for defendant, who has had to focus attention on other additional cases

1 recently, believes that failure to grant the above-requested continuance would deny her the  
2 reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due  
3 diligence.

4 c) The government does not object to the continuance and joins in the request.  
5 d) In addition to the public health concerns cited by General Orders 611, 612, 617  
6 and 655 presented by the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, an ends-of-justice delay is particularly  
7 apt in this case because counsel or other relevant individuals have been encouraged to telework  
8 and minimize personal contact to the greatest extent possible. It will be difficult to avoid  
9 personal contact should the hearing proceed. For these reasons, the court has encouraged the  
10 parties to enter this stipulation.

11 e) Based on the above-stated findings, the ends of justice served by continuing the  
12 case as requested outweigh the interest of the public and the defendant in a trial within the  
13 original date prescribed by the Speedy Trial Act.

14 f) For the purpose of computing time under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161,  
15 et seq., within which trial must commence, the time period from November 2, 2022, to January  
16 18, 2023, inclusive, is deemed excludable under 18 U.S.C. §§ 3161(h)(7)(A) and  
17 3161(h)(7)(B)(i), (ii) and (iv) because it results from a continuance granted by the Court at the  
18 request of the parties on the basis of the Court's finding that the ends of justice served by taking  
19 such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.

20 4. Nothing in this stipulation and order shall preclude a finding that other provisions of the  
21 Speedy Trial Act dictate that additional time periods are excludable from the period within which a trial  
22 must commence.

23 IT IS SO STIPULATED.

24 Dated: October 25, 2022

25 PHILLIP A. TALBERT  
United States Attorney

26 /s/ David Gappa  
27 DAVID L. GAPPY  
28 Assistant United States Attorney

1 Dated: October 25, 2022

/s/ JAYA GUPTA  
2 JAYA GUPTA  
3 Counsel for Defendant  
4 WILLIAM ROBINSON

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COURT: Hon. Sheila K. Oberto

13  
14 **ORDER**

15 The court has reviewed and considered the stipulation filed by the parties on October 25, 2022,  
16 and also reviewed the record of this case. For the reasons stated in the stipulation the period of time  
17 from November 2, 2022, through January 18, 2023, inclusive, is deemed excludable under 18 U.S.C. §§  
18 3161(h)(7)(A) and 3161(h)(7)(B)(i), (ii) and (iv) because it results from a continuance granted by the  
19 Court at the request of the parties on the basis of the Court's finding that the ends of justice served by  
20 taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

22  
23 DATED: 10/31/2023

*Sheila K. Oberto*  
24 THE HONORABLE SHEILA K. OBERTO  
25 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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